



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GHANA

COUNTRY PROFILE



STIPPEL, USAID/GHANA

USAID's Food for Peace program helps women's groups in northern Ghana, such as the one Damata Shahadu belongs to, to improve traditional shea nut processing and product quality. The groups conduct shea nut collection, purchasing, processing, and marketing of the finished product—shea butter—for distribution in local and foreign markets.

GHANA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1957
Population: 21.1 million (2004)
Income per person: \$380 (yr)

Source: World Bank Development Indicators

USAID IN GHANA

www.usaid.gov/missions/gh

OVERVIEW

Ghana is a strong proponent of democracy and possesses considerable growth potential, setting it apart from many countries in West Africa. It plays a key role in promoting political and economic stability in the West African sub-region and has a long tradition of supporting U.N. peacekeeping operations. In fact, Ghana is the seventh largest contributor to U.N. peacekeeping worldwide. USAID/Ghana's program focuses on spreading participatory democracy; expanding trade opportunities; decreasing the spread of infectious diseases; and improving primary education.



PROGRAMS

ADVANCING GOOD GOVERNANCE

While Ghana is a democratic nation, citizens have limited opportunities to provide meaningful input into the decision-making processes of Parliament and local governments. USAID supports Ghana's efforts to consolidate democracy by ensuring that local and national governments are accountable to citizens' interests. At the national level, USAID focuses on strengthening Parliament's law-making functions, access to civic input and research, and capacity to review the national budget. USAID helps citizen organizations build the skills they need to advocate for necessary reforms. At the local level, USAID helps citizen groups to strengthen their ability to work with local government. USAID also helps build the capacity of local government, including district education offices and basic school management committees to respond to civic input. Twelve civic unions were trained to engage local governments on issues of common concern, enabling them to successfully advocate on education and sanitation issues.

INCREASING PRIVATE SECTOR COMPETITIVENESS

Around 40 percent of Ghana's population lives on less than \$1 per day and unemployment remains high. Nevertheless, the poverty rate is around 35 percent, down from 52 percent in 1992. USAID's program helps farmers to get their produce to markets in the region, as well as to Europe and the United States. USAID promotes policy reform to sustain macro-economic stability and makes markets for both produce and inputs such as fertilizer and seeds more efficient through trade liberalization. USAID is promoting reforms to financial, labor and land policies, and revising regulatory frame-

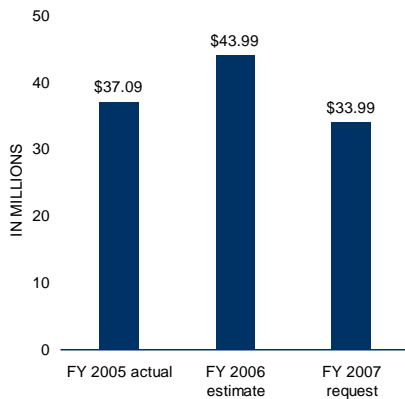


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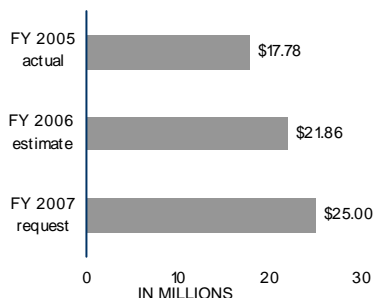
GHANA

COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO GHANA



USAID FOOD AID TO GHANA



For more information, see the
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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work for energy and information and communication technology services so that they enhance competition. USAID also provides assistance to small and medium-sized horticultural businesses to help meet regulatory and market-driven standards and attract foreign investment. Over the past eight years, Blue Skies, a fruit processing business, has built a strong buyer-supplier relationship with small scale farmers of the Sugar Loaf pineapple. USAID helped the farmers that supply to Blue Skies to obtain organic and food safety certification, enabling them to fetch premium prices in Europe for their processed fruit.

IMPROVING HEALTH

Despite major health gains over the last decade, mortality for infants and children under 5-years-old has increased and HIV/AIDS still poses a threat. HIV prevalence has remained relatively stable at 2.7 percent of adults, well below levels in neighboring countries. USAID is empowering individuals and communities to adopt positive health practices, expanding access to quality health services, and strengthening institutional capacity to plan and manage health programs, especially in rural underserved areas. The program is expanding awareness and building capacity to increase child survival, prevent malaria infection, improve reproductive health, and reduce infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Nearly 300 health care providers were trained and mobilized to provide quality health services and increase access to healthcare. Ownership of insecticide treated bed-nets for malaria prevention among pregnant women and children increased from 2.9 to 17.1 percent.

EXPANDING BASIC EDUCATION

While primary school enrollment exceeds 85 percent nationwide, primary school grade level competency in reading and math remains extremely low. USAID's program to improve primary education supports increasing enrollment particularly for girls, improving reading skills, increasing community participation in schools, and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS in the education sector. To enhance reading comprehension, USAID encourages teaching Grade 1 children to read in their local language before making a transition to English. USAID also trains, places, and supports locally recruited teachers in understaffed schools to address teacher shortages in deprived communities of northern Ghana. USAID has established complementary education centers where school-age children who are unable to attend formal schools in northern Ghana receive classroom instruction after normal school hours. The program established 300 training centers and placed 150 community support teachers in rural communities.